DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ALL ITS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own.—JOHNSON.

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S. W. COLE, EDITOR. QUINCY HALL, BOSTON. J. NOURSE, PROPRIETOR.

FRUITS AND FRUIT TREES.

At the agricultural meeting, Feb. 5, Mr. Calhoun in the chair, this subject was discussed. The subject was opened by Major Wheeler, of Framingham. He remarked that fruit raising was much neglected by many farmers: some raise only apples, and those of poor quality. Our market is supplied in a great measure by fruit from the west and south; and yet it is sometimes poorly supplied. Our climate is good for fruit. We can raise peaches here in abundance, by planting on high lands. He knew of locations where they had seldom failed for forty years. They are as easily raised as potatoes; and, as we are on the northern region of the peach, we should raise this fruit to supply Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. We shall yet send peaches to London. We are born with an appetite for fruit. Old apple-trees may be renovated. There are trees in England three hundred years old. Pears are also a valuable fruit, and we have many excellent kinds.

Mr. Earle, of Worcester, fully agreed with the gentleman as to the advantages for, and the profit in, fruit raising. Some farmers now get more for their fruit, than they formerly got for all the produce of their farms. The demand increases with the supply. As improved fruits are introduced, families use more and more, until the demand increases tenfold. Fruit is healthy. Families that use it freely are less liable to disease. The use of the peach has a tendency to check the ravages of the cholera. He said that the blasting of fruit had been attributed to the want of specific manures; but this was not the case, for the St. Michael pear had, in some cases, blasted for several years, then it was good for a number of seasons, and again it blasted, all on the same trees, under regular treatment. Two trees of this variety, standing near each other, exhibited different results; the fruit of one blasted, that of the other was fair. This fruit is a valuable kind when perfect, and it is always good on the quince, and it grows well in this way. He set pears on the quince so as to cover the quince stock with the soil, in order to protect them from the borer. The quince will always throw out roots up to the surface of the soil, and thus obviate any disadvantage from deep planting. The St. Michael bears moderately, and flourishes well; but the Louise Bon de Jersey bears to excess, and brings on premature old age. The pear is as profitable a fruit as the peach, and it flourishes well. We need only eight or ten kinds for common culture.

Hon. Mr. Daggett said that there was one fact that was very encouraging to the fruit-growers of this state—that our peaches and apples are superior in quality, but not in appearance, to those raised in New York and New Jersey. But the peach here is short-lived, and insects destroy the apples. The peach is forced too rapidly; hence its failure. He thought the blight in the pear was caused by drought.

Major Wheeler said that peach-trees bore themselves to death, and they should be headed in to reduce the crop.

Mr. Daggett remarked that he had lost all his cherries, for a few years past, by rose bugs and birds, and the curculio destroyed his plums.

Dr. Gardner, of Seekonk, said that he was deeply interested in this subject. His grapes and peaches had been destroyed by rose bugs. The best remedy was that recommended by Dr. Harris, which was to jar them off into hot water. According to his observation and inquiries, the peach was injurious in the cholera.

Rev. Morrill Allen, of Pembroke, being called on, said that he had not much acquaintance with the subject. When he commenced farming, he was under the necessity to cultivate for annual crops, as he could not wait for the products of fruit trees. He thought farmers should study to have enduring trees, and to this end they should plant the seeds where they would have the trees stand. He found that forest trees flourished best in the soil where the seeds were sown. Animals do better in the locations where they are born. Peach-trees would be more durable, if they were not transplanted. As fruit trees are not immediately profitable, he thought it was not best for farmers to go largely into their cultivation.

Mr. Nathan Stetson, from Braintree, thought that the washing of apple-trees with lye, or a solution of potash, as recommended in the Ploughman, would

not destroy borers or eggs. The borer only enters the bark the first season, and may be found and destroyed in the fall, or in April or May, by removing the earth an inch or two deep, and rubbing the bark closely, so as to discover and remove them. He puts sheets under trees, and jars down rose bugs and destroys them.

Mr. Buckminster remarked that the gentleman had not used lye, as recommended in the Ploughman. The trees should be washed about the 1st of July. The fly lays her eggs near the ground, and they may be destroyed with lye. He alluded to the practice of Major Wheeler, who remarked that he had washed his trees with lye for forty years, and had not been troubled with the borer.

Rev. Mr. Kimball, of Needham, being called on, remarked that he had destroyed borers by the use of lye. He found that peach-trees that had not been transplanted lived the longest.

Dr. Gardner observed that he had not succeeded well by heading in peaches; those trees that were headed in produced less fruit than others; yet some cultivators in his neighborhood succeeded well by heading in their trees.

Mr. Starkweather, of Pawtucket, said that the peach borer was found an inch or two below the surface of the soil, and by examining and destroying them in the spring, in midsummer, and in the fall, they would do but very little damage. They require constant attention. He had failed to raise plums, on account of the curculio, while his neighbor had been very successful, by dusting his trees with air-slaked lime. After a shower, or when the dew was on, or after syringing the tree, he tied a small basket, filled with lime, to the end of a pole, which he ran up into the tree, and shook the basket, so as to dust the tree with lime. This was done soon after the blossoms had fallen, again when the plums were about the size of peas, and again in about a fortnight. He thought it was best for the branches of peach-trees to come out low — the lowest about two feet from the ground.

Major Wheeler observed that, as it was a great deal of labor to head in peach-trees, he used hedging shears for this purpose.

Mr. Earle said that much depended on the manner of heading in peach-trees. He said that there were main branches that would grow two or three feet in a season; near the centre of these branches were a few fruit buds, but the most of the blossom buds were on lateral branches. By cutting off about one half or two thirds of the leading branches, it would prevent their extending to a great distance from the trunk, and being liable to break down by having all their fruit at the extremity of the branch, as the fruit is on the last year's growth. By heading in, a compact top is formed, and the fruit is reduced in number, and improved in size and quality.

Mr. Calhoun said that he had used air-slaked lime on plum-trees, for the purpose of exterminating the rose bugs.

Mr. Starkweather had failed to raise grapes on account of the rose bugs.

Mr. Allen inquired whether other crops could be raised to advantage among apple-trees.

Major Wheeler said that by manuring well, crops might be raised until the trees became large.

Same subject continued.

PROFESSOR JOHNSTON'S LECTURES.

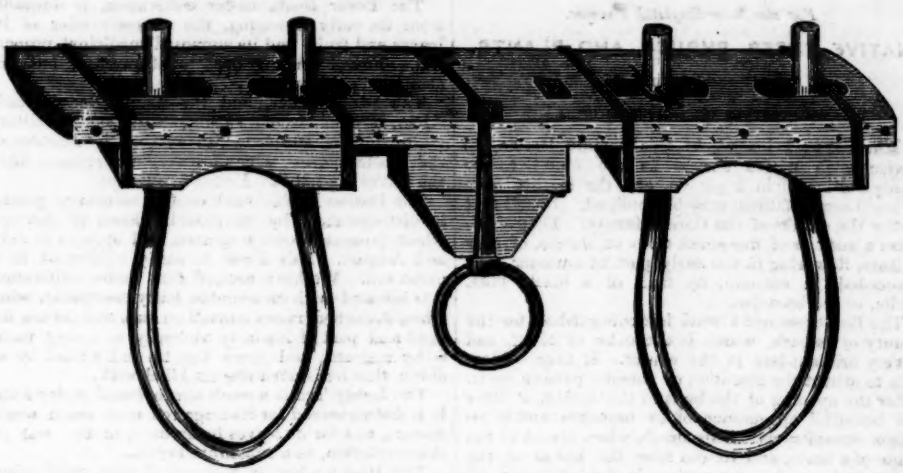
Professor James F. W. Johnston, of England, who came to this country last season, and delivered the address before the New York State Agricultural Society, last September, is now lecturing before the Lowell Institute, in this city. He commenced on Tuesday evening. The evening course is on Tuesday and Friday evenings, and the same is repeated on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. The course consists of twelve lectures. This gentleman, by his lectures and publications, has done much for the improvement of agriculture by showing the practical application of the sciences to this end. The following is a syllabus of this course of lectures: —

1st. The relations of Physical Geography to Agriculture.
2d. The relations of Geology to Agriculture.
3d. The relations of Botany and Zoölogy to Agriculture.
4th. The relations of Meteorology to Agriculture.
5th. The relations of Chemistry to the Soil.
6th. The improvement of the Soil by Mechanical means.
7th. The relations of Chemistry to the composition and functions of the plant.
8th. The composition of the several products of vegetation, and their relative values as food for animals.
9th. The relations of Chemistry to the feeding of animals.
10th. The relations of Chemistry to the dairy husbandry.
11th. The relations of Chemistry to the doctrine of Manures, vegetable and animal.
12th. The Chemistry of Animal Manures.

AGRICULTURAL MEETINGS.

These meetings at the State House have been changed from Tuesday to Thursday evenings, on account of the lectures of Professor Johnston. At the meeting last week, it was voted, that the first speaker be limited to fifteen minutes, as well as those that follow, and that the president enforce this rule. This motion was opposed by some gentlemen, on the ground that fifteen minutes were not sufficient to do justice to a subject; but in reply it was stated, that the first speaker was not expected to go over the whole ground and say all that could be said on the subject, while many gentlemen were present ready to take a part in the discussion, if there was an opportunity. That meeting, a report of which appears on our first page, was far more interesting than the previous meetings, at which the whole time was taken up by a few gentlemen, generally with long, elaborate speeches.

When Prosperity was well mounted, she let go the bridle, and soon came tumbling out of the saddle.



SELF-ADJUSTING OX-YOKE.

This yoke was invented by Mr. David Chappel, of Vermont, and an improvement has been made in its construction by Mr. Daniel Chase, of the same state. By combining the inventions of both patentees, a great and decided improvement is made in the yoke. It is composed of a straight beam of wood, which is strengthened and protected from wear by iron plates on the edges. Blocks are fitted to the oxen's necks, which play on the under side of this beam, to which they are fastened by bands of iron. The bows pass up through these blocks, which slide back and forward as the oxen *haul off* or *crowd*. By an iron rack, with cogs, fastened to each block, and playing into a cog-wheel in the centre of the yoke, both bows play outward, or inward, according to the motion of the oxen, at the same time and distance.

When cattle are travelling on uneven roads, or in deep snows, or ploughing rough lands, the bows slide outward or inward, accommodating themselves to the motion of the oxen. If they pass, with a rock, or stump, or other impediment between them, the yoke widens to their convenience; and in going through a narrow pass, it contracts by the inward pressure of the cattle. The bows may be adjusted so as to give either ox any desirable advantage, which he will retain in all its changes by self-adjustment. Or any width may be given, and permanently fixed. All these arrangements may be made in a few minutes.

This yoke evidently possesses great advantages, accommodating the cattle to various circumstances, and saving a vast amount of strength often wasted in crowding and hauling off, which frequently amounts to as much as is necessary to perform the usual labor with this improvement. This yoke costs but little more than a nice article of the common construction. It will doubtless be for sale in a short time. One is left at this office for a few days.

CONVENTION OF FOWL-BREEDERS.

A convention of fowl breeders and fanciers will meet at the Representatives' Hall, on Thursday evening, the 28th inst., for the purpose of forming a permanent association for the improvement of this important branch of domestic economy. All interested in the subject, and all who are disposed to encourage this laudable enterprise are requested to attend, if convenient. This meeting will take the place of the agricultural meeting.

DESTRUCTION OF THE WIRE WORM.

Mr. Little, in a recent number of the "Illustrated London News," observes that he had tried the application of the most powerful poisons to the wire worm, such as preparations of corrosive sublimate and arsenic, without destroying its vitality. Even vitriol and aquafortis did not consume the worm till after a considerable time. He next tried liquid ammonia, (*harts-horn,*) and the result is said to have been marvellous. The worms were shrivelled up in an instant, and reduced almost to a state of cinder. He afterwards took a portion of the earth containing the worm, mixing it with a small quantity of lime, adding some powdered sal-ammoniac; the result was the decomposition of the latter by lime, and the liberation of ammoniacal gas, which had precisely the effect of the liquid ammonia. This experiment is worth pursuing on a larger scale. Ammonia, it should be remembered, constitutes a most valuable portion of manure.

Observation on the Miller which annoys Bees. — Last season, I allowed about six sunflowers to grow near my beehives; when in flower, they attracted the miller, which fed on them late in the evening, appearing quite stupid, so much so, that I could pick them off with my hand, and deal with them as I could wish. I am now trying several experiments with my bees, the result of which I will make known through the Farmer. — *Michigan Farmer.*

For the New England Farmer.

NATIVE TREES, SHRUBS, AND PLANTS.

[Continued from p. 12.]

CULTIVATION OF NATIVE SHRUBS.

Mr. Cole: I intend, in this communication, to notice such native shrubs as are found to be easily cultivated in a garden, and the locality from whence some of them may be obtained. I shall first notice the shrubs of the Cornus family. They comprise a number of fine small trees or shrubs, of easy culture, flowering in the early part of summer, and succeeded, in autumn, by fruit of a black, blue, white, or scarlet color.

The Red Stemmed Cornel is distinguished for the beauty of its bark, which is the color of blood, and is very brilliant late in the winter. It then seldom fails to attract the attention of persons passing by it. After the opening of the buds in the spring, it loses the beautiful appearance of its branches, and is no longer conspicuous. This shrub, when placed in the angle of a fence, and viewed from the house or the street, makes a fine appearance in the latter part of winter, with its brilliant red-colored stems and shoots. Found in low grounds.

The Alternate-leaved, and the Panicled Cornel, are handsome shrubs, from six to eight feet high. The cymes, or heads of flowers, are numerous, with white petals; and in the early part of summer, make a fine showy appearance. The fruit of the one is blue black, of the other pale white; ripe in autumn. Found on the borders of woods and fields.

The Cornus Florida, or Flowering Dogwood, is a very handsome shrub, or small tree; but I know of none found in this vicinity, except a few under cultivation, some of which have attained the height of ten feet, and are now covered with many hundred flower buds. The flowers expand in May or June, are large, of a white color, and of a singular form and structure. The Dogwood, in autumn, presents a show of scarlet berries, which, together with the changing hue of its leaves, makes a pleasing appearance. This shrub is not to be confounded with the Poison Sumac, usually called Dogwood, which it in no way resembles. The Cornus Florida is every way a very desirable shrub.

The Viburnums are, many of them, pretty shrubs, with white flowers, and terminal cymes, or heads, followed in autumn by fruit of blue, lead, or crimson color. The first that we shall notice is the Arrowwood; so called from the use once made of its straight shoots, by the Indians, for their arrows. It is found in low, wet grounds, with white flowers, and dark lead-colored fruit. The Sweet Viburnum is a beautiful shrub or small tree, with handsome flowers, fruit, and leaves; and we have found it of easy cultivation. Found in low grounds.

The Cranberry Viburnum resembles somewhat, in its appearance, the Guelder Rose. It has been recommended by some persons for cultivation, on account of its fruit, as it resembles the meadow cranberry, and is thought to possess its good qualities; but after cultivating this shrub for many years, we have found it to possess more beauty than utility. It is a poor substitute for the cranberry, possessing a bitter taste, and a large oblong nut, and never produces fruit in great abundance, under cultivation. Not to be found in a wild state in this vicinity, except it may be seen in Gloucester woods.

The Hobble Bush is found growing in the rocky woodlands adjoining the Magnolia Swamp in Gloucester, and is found from six to ten feet high. It is distinguished for its large leaves, white flowers and crimson fruit. We have found this plant the most difficult of its genus to cultivate.

The Fever Bush, under cultivation, is desirable from its early flowering, the aromatic odor of its leaves and fruit, and its supposed medicinal properties. Found on the borders of swamps, but not common in this vicinity.

The Black Alder, and the Single Berry Black Alder, are handsome shrubs, with small axillary white flowers, succeeded, in autumn, by clusters of rich scarlet berries, which are very conspicuous after the leaves are fallen. Found in swamps.

The Button Bush, found on the margin of ponds, is distinguished by its globular head of flowers, which possesses some fragrance, and appears in July and August. This shrub is easily cultivated in a moist soil. We have noticed that under cultivation it is infested with an irritable hairy caterpillar, who, when disturbed, raises himself on end, and shakes his head and part of his body violently, in a very menacing manner, and gives you to understand by so doing, that he is not to be meddled with.

The Jersey Tea is a small shrub, found in dry soils. It is distinguished for its large red root, small white flowers, and for its leaves being used, in the war of the revolution, as a substitute for tea.

The Bladder Nut is a shrub of easy cultivation, remarkable for its large, inflated capsules. It is not seen in this vicinity, except under cultivation, and is somewhat troublesome, from its habit of throwing up numerous suckers.

S. P. FOWLER.

Danvers New Mills, *Jan.* 17, 1850.

[to be continued.]

PLUMS.

Mr. Andrew Lackey, Marblehead, has furnished the following valuable communication on plums. We gave an account of his fruit garden in our first volume, page 305. Although he has been but little known to the public, he has made extensive and thorough experiments on plums, collecting a large variety from our own and foreign countries. We believe that no cultivator in our country has gone into the trial of this fruit with more zeal, thoroughness, and nice observation. In some cases, he has collected eight or ten trees, from different sources, under different names, that have all proved to be identical. Such experiments are valuable to the public, and we are happy in presenting their results.

Mr. Lackey's soil is cold and heavy — originally too heavy for tillage, until improved by hauling on sand. This may account for some varieties succeeding well with him, which may be condemned by those who grow fruit on light soils. At our request he has added the time of ripening, but with some reluctance, as it varies with the weather and the seasons; also with the soil, the amount of fruit produced, and other circumstances. Yet with all these variations, the time of ripening, as given by an experienced cultivator, will be of great advantage to beginners; for, although it cannot be implicitly relied on, as agreeing with all locations, soils, and seasons, it will not vary much, and it will serve as a valuable directory.

Mr. Lackey has made experiments on about a hundred other varieties of plums, the greater part of which are not worth cultivating; and some that have been recently procured have not been well tested. He is also making experiments on hundreds of seed-

ling plums, from which we trust that he will have some new and valuable kinds.

MR. LACKEY'S DESCRIPTIVE LIST.

1. *Rivers's Early.* — This is a plum of the highest character, a week or ten days earlier than the Morocco, and superior to it in flavor. As I have fruited it but once, I am not prepared to speak decidedly as to its productiveness. Ripens from July 25 to the middle of August.

2. *Precoce de Tours.* — An early plum, of good flavor, but rather an indifferent bearer. Ripens the last of July and former part of August.

3. *Royale de Tours.* — This is a fruit of a beautiful appearance, ripens early, and is of excellent quality. The tree is a good bearer. Many spurious sorts are cultivated under this name, in various parts of the country. The Peach plum received of Saul & Co., also the Peach plum of Cole, seem to me to be identical with this variety. Ripens from the last of July to the middle of August.

[This plum is the same as that cultivated in Worcester, formerly, under the name of Nectarine and Wheeler plum. Those which we have are from trees imported from France, and seem to answer the description of the Peach plum. — Ed.]

4. *Black Imperial.* — A handsome fruit, of large size, and of tolerably good flavor. Trees received for the Early Bradshaw, prove to be identical with this. Ripens from the 1st to the 15th of August.

5. *Morocco.* — I have fruited this for many seasons, and consider it a pretty good early plum. Ripens from August 1st to 20th.

6. *Washington.* — Notwithstanding this variety has received so high encomiums from cultivators in different parts of the country, yet it cannot be recommended for general culture. Fruit sometimes excellent, often insipid. With all its popularity, it cannot be reckoned a first-rate fruit. It is very unproductive as a standard — does better grafted on a Canada stock, and trained low. In fact, it is one of those varieties that will not pay for cultivation. Ripens in August.

7. *Orleans.* — A great and constant bearer. Fruit valuable, and less liable to rot than most varieties. Ripens the middle of August.

8. *Azure Hatif.* — A great bearer, but hardly worth cultivating. Ripens the middle of August.

9. *Royale Hatif.* — A fine fruit, worthy a place in choice collections. I have often seen, at the Horticultural Rooms, Boston, the Precoce de Tours exhibited for this variety. The genuine sort was received under the name of Azure Hatif. Ripens the middle of August.

10. *Duane's Purple.* — This variety can only be recommended for its large size and handsome appearance. I have cultivated it for ten years past, and never knew it to fail to rot. As to quality, it is far inferior to several kinds that ripen at the same time, which is the middle of August.

11. *Italian Damask.* — This variety is justly esteemed a great favorite. It is an early and abundant bearer, and first rate for the market or private garden. It should be extensively cultivated. Ripens from the 12th to the 20th of August.

12. *Monsieur Hatif.* — This is an excellent fruit, the same as the Italian Damask; at least it seems so, as it is like that variety in its wood, leaf, habits of growth, and in the form of its fruit and period of ripening. Ripens from the 12th to the 20th of August.

13. *Couetch.* — This tree, purchased at Cunningham's auction shop, a few years since, so strongly resembles the Italian Damask, that I am inclined to believe that they are identical. This name must be a corruption of Quetsche, but a great mistake was made in classing this plum with the family of prunes. Ripens from the 12th to the 20th of August.

14. *Perdrigon Violet Hatif.* — The variety received under this name very much resembles the Italian Damask, in wood and leaf, but the fruit is a little more oblong. It is nearly first rate. Ripens from the 12th to the 20th of August.

15. *Drap d'Or.* — A small plum, of the highest character — almost equal to the Green Gage. The tree is a shy bearer. Ripens August 15th to 20th.

16. *Red Apricot.* — This tree is a poor bearer, and the fruit, though beautiful in appearance, is hardly worthy of cultivation. Ripens August 20th.

17. *Cheston, or Matchless.* — A purple plum, of pretty good flavor, but not worthy a place in a choice collection. Ripens August 20th.

18. *English Wheat.* — This variety was received some years ago, from Robert Manning, Esq., of Salem, under the name of Jenkins's Imperial. It ripens a few days after the Italian Damask, is a great bearer, and is in every respect worthy of cultivation. A tree received for the Rogers's plum, is the same as this. Ripens August 20th.

19. *Prince's Yellow Gage.* — An excellent plum, a great bearer, and highly worthy of cultivation. Ripens August 20th.

20. *Prince's Imperial Gage.* — This fruit will not flourish here. Its disposition to rot, and its variableness, have induced me to discontinue its cultivation. Ripens from the middle to the last of August.

[This variety succeeds better on a sandy loam. — Ed.]

21. *Pond's Purple.* [Pond's Seedling. — Ed.] — This variety is hardly second rate in flavor; yet its productiveness and handsome appearance entitle it to a place in a large collection. A different fruit from that described by Mr. Thompson in the London Horticultural Society's Catalogue. Ripens the latter part of August.

22. *Dana's Yellow Gage.* — A very productive variety, but it cannot be recommended for general cultivation. The fruit is esteemed by some persons, but to my taste it is quite disagreeable. Ripens the last of August.

23. *Lawrence's Favorite.* — A fruit of American origin. It is of excellent quality, and is worthy to be called a *favorite*. The tree is an abundant bearer. Ripens the last of August.

24. *Cruger's Scarlet.* — A pretty plum, of second quality. A great bearer, and worthy of cultivation. It is, however, rather inclined to rot. Ripens the last of August.

25. *Bleecker's Gage.* — An excellent plum, and should be in every collection. Ripens the last of August and first of September.

26. *Green Gage.* — A plum of the very highest character. An abundant bearer, and less liable to rot than most varieties. Ripens the last of August and into September.

27. *Lombard.* — I have cultivated this variety to considerable extent; and though I find it second rate in quality, yet I prize it highly for its extreme productiveness. This, with Cruger's Scarlet, and Imperial Gage, thrives better than most others on dry soil. A tree of this variety, set out in 1841, bore three bushels the last season. Ripens from the last of August into September.

28. *Kirk.* — A delicious fruit. The tree does not seem to be a great bearer. Ripens from the last of August into September.

29. *Lucomb's Nonsuch.* — This plum thrives admirably with me, and bears large crops every year. The fruit is of a large size, handsome appearance, and worthy of extensive cultivation. Ripens from the last of August into September.

[Some cultivators do not esteem this variety, which

may be owing to their cultivating it on a dry soil, which is not so congenial to its nature. — Ed.]

30. *Prince's Orange Egg.* — This variety was received of Wm. R. Prince, Esq., of Flushing, Long Island. It produced specimens, in shape and color, like Dana's Yellow Gage, but larger. Not worthy of cultivation. Ripens from the last of August into September.

31. *Elfrey.* — This fruit is an especial favorite of mine. The flesh is rather dry, but of excellent flavor. The tree is a prodigious bearer, and, like all other great bearers, liable to the excrescence, or black wart. Ripens from the last of August into September.

32. *Domine Dull.* — This variety was received, a few years since, under the name of German Prune. The tree is a good bearer; the fruit excellent. But I do not consider it equal to Manning's Long Blue Prune. Ripens from the last of August into September.

33. *Red Gage.* — An excellent fruit, a prodigious bearer, and worthy of extensive cultivation. Ripens from the last of August into September.

34. *Red Magnum Bonum.* — The tree is a great bearer. The fruit large and handsome, but fit only for preserves. Ripens from the last of August into September.

35. *Peter's Large Yellow.* — A large fruit, but not worthy of cultivation. Ripens from the last of August into September.

36. *Goliah.* — Of a large size, and handsome appearance, but unworthy of cultivation, excepting for cooking. Ripens from the last of August into September.

37. *Manning's Long Blue Prune.* — This is a rapid grower, and a good bearer, and highly worthy of cultivation. It is among the handsomest of plums. Ripens from the last of August to the 10th of September.

38. *Jefferson.* — Although this variety is hardly equal to the Green Gage, yet it is a fruit of great merit. One tree received in 1841 for the Kirk, but which proved to be the Jefferson, bore one and a half bushels of fruit in 1846. It is a prodigious bearer, and worthy of general cultivation. Ripens from the last of August to the middle of September.

39. *Orange.* — I was hardly able to judge of the character of this fruit last season, though I had a large crop, as most of the plums rotted on the tree. Some of the best specimens were hardly second rate. Ripens from the last of August to the middle of September.

40. *Brevoort's Purple Bolmar.* — As it regards the character of this fruit, I think it has been ranked too high. The last season, however, it was better than I have ever known it before. The tree is healthy, and it produces abundantly. Ripens the first of September.

41. *White Magnum Bonum.* — This is a handsome fruit, but it is fit only for preserving. The tree was received under the name of Dame Aubert. Ripens the first of September.

42. *Sharp's Emperor.* — I have fruited this and Denney's Victoria, for many years, and I do not hesitate to pronounce them identical. It is a handsome fruit, of good quality. The tree is an abundant bearer. Ripens the first of September.

43. *Howland.* — I received a tree of this variety of R. Manning, Esq. He had it of Judge Buel. It is unworthy of cultivation. Ripens the first of September.

44. *Columbia.* — The tree is a vigorous grower. The fruit is large and excellent, but much inclined to rot on the tree. Ripens the first of September.

45. *Huling's Superb.* — The fruit is of a very large size: one specimen, raised the last season, measured six and one half inches in circumference. It is of very good quality, but so liable to rot, that it cannot be recommended for cultivation. Ripens the first of September.

46. *Bingham.* This fruit is excellent. The tree is a good grower and great bearer, and worthy of general cultivation. Ripens early in September.

47. *Reine Claude Violet.* [Purple Gage. — Ed.] — A fine fruit, but hardly equal to the Green Gage. The tree is a prodigious bearer. I have received, from different sources, many trees under this name, which proved to be wrong. I obtained the genuine kind from J. M. Ives, Esq., of Salem, a few years since. Ripens September 1st to 20th.

48. *Diamond.* — A great bearer, but unworthy of cultivation, excepting for cooking. Ripens in the former part of September.

49. *Cooper's Large.* — This variety was received, some years since, from Robert Manning, Esq., under the name of La Deliceuse. The fruit is of good flavor, but so subject to rot, that I have been unable to cultivate it with profit. Ripens in September.

50. *Diapree Rouge.* — Although this plum is of a large size, and of excellent quality, yet it is rather unprofitable, owing to its disposition to rot. Ripens in September.

51. *Smith's Orleans.* — I consider this one of the finest of plums. If I could not cultivate more than half a dozen varieties, this would be one of them. Ripens in September.

52. *Corse's Nota Bene.* — A fruit of high character, and a great bearer. Trees received for Corse's Favorite, have proved to be the same as this. Ripens the middle of September.

53. *Royale Dauphine.* — I have cultivated this plum for many years, and have always found it an indifferent fruit. Ripens the middle of September.

54. *Wilkinson Prune.* — I have fruited this plum many seasons, but as the quality is inferior, I have grafted it to a better variety. Ripens the last of September.

55. *St. Catharine.* — A plum of excellent quality, and a prodigious bearer — worthy of extensive cultivation, as it ripens after most other plums are gone. Ripens from September 20 to October 10.

56. *Coe's Golden Drop.* — This is a late plum, of first-rate quality when well ripened. It requires a warm situation, in order to have it in perfection. No collection is complete without it. Ripens from the middle of September to the last of October.

57. *Blue Imperatrice.* — This fruit is highly worthy of cultivation. It should be in every collection. The Imperatrice Violet of the French, which has been cultivated to some extent in this vicinity, as a synonym of this fruit, strongly resembles the Semiana, cultivated in the neighborhood of Boston; but it bears only a slight resemblance to the Blue Imperatrice. The wood of both is similar. Ripens in October and into November.

58. *Frost Gage.* — This fruit is almost equal to the Damson for preserving, and, if allowed to hang on the tree till fully ripe, it is of most excellent flavor. A great bearer. Ripens in October and into November.

59. *Coe's Late Red.* — I have never been able to raise good specimens of this variety. The fruit will not ripen here. Ripens middle of October and into November.

For the New England Farmer.

DEEP AND SHALLOW DRAINING.

Mr. Cole: Your addendum to my letter on Brush Draining, it strikes me, bears the implication, remotely, that I am in favor of shallow trenches in preference to the deep ones, which modern experience has proved the better for all purposes, — efficiency

and cheapness of construction at their head. I am anxious to disprove the impression, but much more desirous of placing before your readers the advantages which proceed from the latter mode of operation.

I am old enough to remember the advent of the modern principles of draining. When it was first practised, no such idea as subsoil culture had its birth in the agricultural mind. You well know that the general depth of active soils, on indurated bases, seldom averages more than nine inches, when under the much too common system of cultivation, — which amounts to a mere ploughing. This partial stirring, and the action of the atmosphere, rarely combine to pulverize the earth below the above designated depth, when the substratum is of a tenacious or indurated character. Acting on the observations arising from this fact, the original drainers decided on eighteen inches as a sufficient depth to cut their trenches, — their object not being to deepen the soil, but to carry away surface water, and cut off springs, &c. These objects the system could accomplish tolerably well; and it was not until the operations of scientific men proved the benefits of subsoiling, for the purpose of deepening the active soil, that any deviation from the original mode was acknowledged as being proper or necessary.

The progress of science demonstrated that healthy plants of the cereal descriptions would send their roots from sixteen to thirty inches into the soil, in search of sustenance to support their vigor; and this begot, in turn, the idea of applying mechanical means to the pulverization of the soil to such depth as would insure to crops such favoring conditions. Consequently the subsoil plough, and all the varieties of cultivators, were invented, and came into use. These influences revolutionized the rules of draining previously laid down; and the Deanston system arose upon the ruins of the old established eighteen inch deep practice. Mr. Smith, of Deanston, in Scotland, with whom I have had the pleasure of conversing often on this subject, first adopted the theory of two and one half feet deep drains, and proved their superior advantage, along with subsoil ploughing, in an elaborate and most satisfactory series of experiments. His published letters, and public lectures, soon made his system popular; and the combined advantages of subsoil ploughing and deep draining, formed the intermediate age of agricultural improvement; for draining especially had another step farther to go, ere it could earn the title of such perfection as it has at present attained to. In the original system, the rule, was eighteen inches deep and eighteen feet space between the trenches; in the Deanston system, the depth of drain was two and one half feet, and the trenches also eighteen feet apart. Mr. Smith has, within the past ten years, reluctantly added six inches to his theory; but this addition has not recommended an attachment to his system.

In 1840 several gentlemen in the south-west of England, and elsewhere very partially, began to consider the propriety of adding to the depth of the drains, and widening the space between them — acting on the supposition that the greater declivity the water had to run upon, the greater the rapidity of its disappearance from the soil, — and also judging that the more inclined the plane surface of the subsoil, the horizontal distance from which water could be drawn to the trenches would be proportionally increased: these parties, considering the above probabilities, determined to prove them facts, and instituted a series of experiments, which ultimately satisfied them that they were practical truths. Mr. Mechi, of London, stands at the head of the third age of drainers. His system was to dig his trenches four feet deep, when the declivity of the land would tolerate this depth, and in some instances five feet, and have them forty feet apart. The marked efficiency of the system, in deepening the soil, through the furnishing of conditions superior to any other, for the action of external influences of water and atmosphere combined, soon rendered it a favorite one: and now it is the only system which receives the sanction and adoption of the improvers in Great Britain. My next shall contain some remarks on the adjuncts necessary to efficient drainage. Meantime I am truly yours,

A FIRESIDE FARMER.

Boston, *Jan.*, 1850.

For the New England Farmer.

EVERGREEN HEDGES.

Friend Cole: Very few farmers in New England possess well-grown hedges, or, indeed hedges of any growth. Of course they have little knowledge of hedge planting and raising. To this want of knowledge may perhaps be attributed the lack of interest evinced on this subject, by those who might be expected to feel much. Would it not be well occasionally to call their attention to this subject through the columns of the Farmer?

What single feature of improvement is there, that could possibly give to a farm so much additional beauty, as that of surrounding it with an evergreen hedge? There is, even in winter, a pleasing appearance of freshness and vigor in the dark foliage of some of our native evergreens which commands the admiration of every one. A hedge of evergreen is in itself beautiful; but to a landscape otherwise barren, it gives an air of picturesque loveliness that scarcely any thing else can give. In most of our nurseries, evergreens of various kinds (not always the most beautiful) are grown, but in small numbers, and principally for ornamental trees. Occasionally, we see beside some small garden a few yards of arbor vitæ, or other evergreen hedge; but, as yet, no boundaries or subdivisions of farms are marked by walls of living green.

Much pains are taken, by the inhabitants of cities and their suburbs, to render their situations more pleasing and attractive. Here and there, small lawns are interspersed, and gardens of fruits and flowers, vineries and conservatories, and groups of shrubs, or trees; but the scenery of our country farms gives little appearance of rural taste, among the more rural population. The background is not always the least expressive and important part of the picture. It is for the farmer to take the pencil, and trace the more striking and extended outlines over the face of New England landscape.

If he will but try, he may find it not to be so hard a task as at first he might suppose. In this part of the country, a new era in farming has begun. The cropping system, which has been employed here, has in a great measure exhausted the virgin soils which gave our fathers bread. To plough and sow, without feeding the soil, give no returns now. Those who wish to till their farms on the exhausting system, must go to the west. Those who remain here will find it for their interest to till small farms, and *do it well.* When skill, science, and practical experience are combined, a little land is sufficient. If it be exhausted, or naturally unfertile, the less is needed, for it requires more to cultivate and enrich it. No man, who intends to get his living by farming, can afford to let his land lie waste, or to half till it, for the purpose of growing half crops. If, then, a man owns but so much land as he can cultivate, (he has but a doubtful title to more,) and that is his homestead, what reason can he have for leaving it, yet

after year, in appearance so comfortless and uninviting as almost to defy its owner to call it his home?

It is easy for farmers to give here and there a touch of beauty to the surrounding landscape. It is directly in their line of business, and nature is always ready to assist them. Every farmer has fences to build. Give the soil a little cultivation, and it will support a living hedge of hemlock, or Norway spruce, as readily as a rail fence; and do something more towards keeping it in repair. The shelter which a good hedge affords, is by no means its least recommendation. For the sake of protection alone, it deserves to be brought into general use by those who till lands in bleak situations along the Atlantic coast.

I know but little of the different kinds of evergreen trees; but from what I have been able to learn of those who do know the habits and peculiarities of each, I have come to the conclusion, that the Norway spruce is the most valuable as a hedge plant for the Eastern States. It is open to the objection that it must be procured in Europe. It does certainly seem that we might find a suitable evergreen in our native forests; but be that as it may, it will be decided by those who are qualified by experience to judge rightly. According to the statements of Robert Nelson in the Horticulturist, (vol. ii.,) the Norway spruce combines all the most necessary qualities for a hedge plant. He speaks from experience, and his remarks are therefore valuable. He speaks of it as being so perfectly hardy, that it may be used in very exposed situations for a protection against high winds. It will flourish on almost any soil, but much the best on that of a poor, gravelly nature. It is well known that evergreens do not usually bear pruning well; but of this, Friend Nelson says, "It may be cut into any shape, and after a few years' trimming, it presents a strong green wall of great power of resistance." He gives also full directions for raising from seed, planting, and trimming, which will be of great value to beginners.

Farmers, as well as others, are beginning to see that beauty and utility may sometimes be united without loss to the nature of either. I am confident that if an effort be made by nurserymen and amateurs, the Norway spruce may be grown so cheaply and extensively as to come into general use for hedges. As Yankees possess such a *penchant* for "going ahead" with any thing that they undertake, it is important that they should start aright. To do this in hedge planting, much information is required which farmers do not yet possess. For the purpose of introducing the subject, and getting some information for myself and others, I will ask two or three questions which I should like to have inserted in the columns of the New England Farmer.

Will the hemlock (*Abies Canadensis*) flourish on poor, gravelly soils? Will it bear pruning sufficiently well to serve as a hedge plant? Can we import the seeds of the Norway spruce from England, as readily as we can the plants? If so, what is the proper season for sending? — Any information in regard to the expense of procuring plants, planting and raising hedges, would no doubt be gladly received by many subscribers to the Farmer.

Thine, with respect, N.

Danvers New Mills, *First Mo.* 11th, 1850.

For the New England Farmer.

GRAFTING THE PEACH TREE.

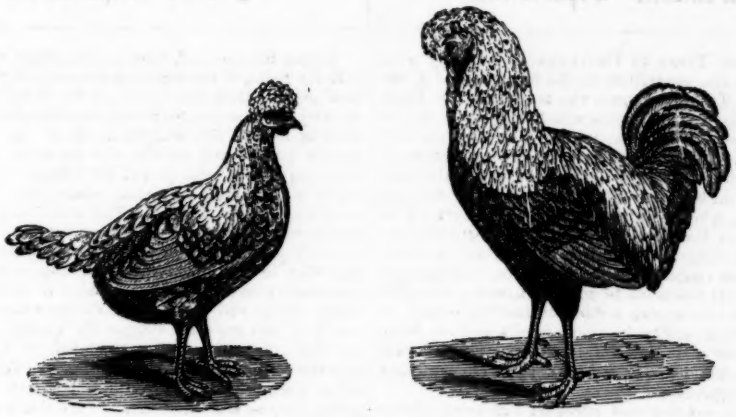
Mr. Cole: I perceive that you, with many others of extensive experience in the cultivation of fruit, recommend the raising of peaches from the pips, or stones, thus securing the natural fruit. I also observe, in your valuable "Fruit Book," that when any desirable variety is required, *budding* is the proper method. But I wish to inquire, What shall we do with a young, healthy tree, that bears *poor* fruit? Shall we graft? And if so, where; on the principal branches, or on the main stock; above, or below the surface? It seems to me, with my limited experience, that the better way would be, to graft about a foot or eighteen inches from the ground, letting two scions grow. I have noticed that writers say that stone fruit should be budded rather than grafted, as with the latter they are more liable to *gum*, or bleed, and that gumming hurts them. I think, however, that Lord Bacon says that gumming does them good. I should be happy of your opinion. L.

Remarks. — The peach is propagated by stones or by budding. In many cases the stones produce the same as the parent tree; but this can only be depended on when a variety is shown by experience to be a fixed variety, yielding fruit after its kind. The peach is propagated with great facility and success by budding. Grafting the peach, or propagating it by layers or cuttings, is so difficult that these modes receive but little attention. Lord Bacon is often quoted in relation to fruit trees; but we think that he had but very little practical knowledge of the subject, judging from his absurd remarks. He says, that the scion overruleth the stock quite; but practice shows that the stock has some influence on the scion. — Ed.

LONGEVITY OF THE HORSE.

It has long been an impression that the ordinary duration of a horse's life is much shorter than it ought to be, and that the excess of mortality is the result of carelessness or ignorant management. The great error consists in regard to the temperament and general constitution of a horse as altogether different from those of a human being; whereas they are precisely the same in all important respects. Disease arising from excessive fatigue, overheating, and exposure to air, want of exercise, improper diet, both as respects quality and quantity, and from many other causes, affects the horse and his master alike, and neglect in either case must terminate fatally. Indeed, when a man or a horse has acquired, by a course of training, a high degree of health and vigor, the skin of each is an infallible index of the fact. It has been often remarked in England, that the skin of the pugilist, who has undergone a severe course of training, when he prepares himself for the fight, exhibits a degree of beauty and exceeding fairness, that excites the admiration as well as the wonder of the spectator. So with the horse: his skin is the clearest evidence of the general state of his health. Even the common disease of foundering is not peculiar to the horse, but is merely a muscular affection, to which many men, who have overstrained themselves at any period, are subject. In fact, the medical treatment of the horse and his rider ought to be the same; and we confidently believe that if this principle were acted upon with a moderate share of attention and resolution, the average age of this useful animal would be much longer, and the profit derived from his labors proportionably greater. — *Norfolk Beacon.*

Horses poisoned. — Will castor beans kill horses? So it would seem from the Des Moines Courier, which says that eight horses were killed at Agency, in Iowa, a little time since, from eating a few castor beans, accidentally mixed with their food. The castor bean is a common production in parts of Southern Illinois; and there can be no doubt about the truth of it. — *Prairie Farmer.*



SPANGLED HAMBURG FOWLS.

There are two varieties of this breed: the Golden, which is of a bright yellow color; and the Silver, which is of a silvery white. The marks of distinction are only in color. By a cross of these varieties, many other sub-varieties may be produced, with various colors, according to the choice of the breeder.

The Spangled Hamburg is a very beautiful fowl, having a plump body, tender skin, and but little offal. It has no comb, but it generally has two or more conical eminences or horns just above the beak, and behind this, in place of comb, is a large tuft of pendant feathers. Under the insertion of the lower mandible, or that part of the neck corresponding with the chin in man, is a full tuft resembling a beard. The wattles of the cock are small. The hens lay freely, and the eggs are of good size.

The cock of the Golden Spangled is of a golden or orange yellow, each feather having a glossy black tip. The hen is of an orange brown, with the feathers margined with black, like those of the cock.

In the Silver Spangled variety, the ground color is silvery, with a tinge of yellow, and each feather is margined with a semi-lunar mark of glossy black. When the fowls are at rest, the feathers present a spangled appearance; hence their name; and the peculiar color gives an additional name, showing that mark of distinction.

These fowls won the prize at a late show of the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland.

THE MULE.

Having noticed in the Dollar Newspaper quite an interesting essay on the horse, the thought suggested itself to present the claims of the mule through the same medium, with your consent.

Perhaps there is no animal of such value as the mule, that has been so much neglected and maltreated; but this has in a great measure ceased to be the case, and the mule now finds more favor in the estimation of the farmer. The mule is coming into more general use among farmers, — his true value is being found out, also his great superiority above the horse for agricultural purposes. In proportion to a knowledge of this fact has the price paid for mules advanced, until it now nearly doubles that of some few years past. There is also a great increase among the number of farmers who have turned their attention to raising mules instead of horses, and I think in this they have manifested considerable wisdom. Let the reader consider the following facts and be his own judge in the matter: — The mule will answer to work fully a year sooner than the horse; he will do as much work as the horse, treatment being equal, upon nearly half the feed; he will last twice as long as the horse; it is said that the mule deteriorates about as fast after he is twenty, as the horse does after he is ten; the mule is a great deal less subject to disease than the horse; they live to be a great deal older. I was once asked, by way of calling my attention to the longevity of mules, if I ever saw a dead mule? I never did. I do not pretend to say they never die; but they certainly live to be very old. Pliny gives an account of one, taken from Grecian history, that was eighty years old; and though past labor, followed others that were carrying material to the temple of Minerva at Athens.

Much of the slowness and stubbornness attributed to mules, has been the result of cruel treatment. *Who*, that can remember, has not often heard the remark, that mules were the very things for servants? — and why? Because they, as a general thing, possess very little humanity and care, in regard to the brutes entrusted to their management. Kind treatment and attention are as essential in order to have good mules, as they are to have good horses.

A few suggestions in regard to breaking mules, before I finish. When a mule gets to be three years old he is then at the proper age to be broke; but he should not be worked hard until four years old. When you take him in hand to break him, do not be rough with him; be sure to fasten him so that he does not get away, for if he once breaks loose he does not forget it, and it renders him more difficult to manage. Mules should always be broke to a wagon with a horse or mule that has a swift walk; they may be broke to walk swift or slow at pleasure by accustoming them to either gait at first, hence I recommend them to be broke with one that has a swift gait. The female mule I think preferable to the male, as the former is generally more tractable, and some say, will last longer. G. R.

Sussex County, Va., 1849.

— *Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper.*

Domestic Department.

A Correct Taste in Children. — In many ways the mother can contribute to the formation of a correct taste. The first hymns she teaches to the lisper, and even the earliest notes which she sings for its lullaby, should be chosen with care. The pictures with which the walls of the nursery are adorned, should be selected with a studious and cultivated regard for real beauty. Likenesses of excellent men and women, whose names you would choose to have your children love, and whose virtues you would rejoice to see them imitate, are a very desirable ornament. A few elegant historical pictures, which might be used as introductions to general history, or which are calculated to inspire noble sentiments, would be found of great utility in every family able to have them. A few well finished landscape pieces would also tend to foster a love of nature in its cheerful and its sublime aspects.

There is a refining and effectual influence arising from a daily familiarity with the scenery of nature, whether it glow before us in its original loveliness, or in the representations of the genuine artist.

At proper times, as the mind becomes able to receive them, clear and definite instructions should be given as to the reason of their selection, the nature of their influence, and the general rules which should govern the exercise of the imagination. As the youth educated by such a process enters upon scenes and studies away from home, these early instructions, examples, and associations will operate to elevate, restrain, and purify the mind, influencing his course of reading, his companionship, and his present character. — *Farmer and Mechanic.*

Winter Saccatash. — This is made of dried shelled beans, and hard corn. Take equal quantities of shelled beans and corn: put them over night into separate pans, and pour boiling water over them. Let them soak till morning. Then pour off that water, and scald them again. First boil the beans by themselves. When they are soft, add the corn, and let them boil together till the corn is quite soft, which will require at least an hour. Take them up, drain them in a sieve; then put them into a deep dish, and mix them in a large piece of fresh butter, and a little pepper and salt.

This is an excellent accompaniment to pickled pork, bacon, or corned beef. The meat must be boiled by itself in a separate pot. — *Miss Leslie.*

Hominy. — Hominy is Indian corn shelled from the cob, divested of the yellow or outward skin by scalding in hot ley, and then winnowed and dried. It is perfectly white. Having washed it through two or three waters, pour boiling water on it, cover it, and let it soak all night, or for several hours. Then put it into a pot or saucepan, allow two quarts of water to each quart of hominy, and boil till perfectly soft. Then drain it, and put it into a deep dish, add some butter to it, and send it to the table hot (and uncovered) to eat with any sort of meat, but particularly with corned beef or pork. What is left may be made next day into thick cakes, and fried in butter. To be *very* good, hominy should boil four or five hours.

Deliberate with caution, but act with decision; and yield with graciousness, or oppose with firmness

Youth's Department.

Early Rising. — A talented physician remarks that "Early rising is the stepping stone to all that is great and good. Both the mind and the body are invigorated by the practice, and much valuable time is gained that is lost to the sluggard. It is the basis upon which health and wealth are founded. The early morning is the best period for reflection and study; for it is then, after refreshing sleep, that the mind is most vigorous and calm. The statesman, as well as the merchant, arranges his plans for the coming day, and all passes smoothly; while he who wastes his morning in bed loses much of the most valuable commodity in life — time — *which is never regained.* Early rising will often make the poor man rich; the contrary will too often beggar the wealthiest. It will do much towards making the weak strong; and the reverse will enfeeble the strongest. Second sleep often produces headache and languor. There is nothing more true than that — 'He that loses an hour in the morning is seeking it the remainder of the day.' All our greatest men have been early risers; for instance — Newton, Franklin, Wellington, Shakspeare, Milton, Reynolds, Hunter, Eldon, Erskine."

Health Department.

How to Dislodge a Fish-Bone from the Throat. — It sometimes happens that a fish-bone, accidentally swallowed, will remain in the œsophagus, and occasion serious inconvenience; in fact, instances have been known where so much irritation had arisen that death has followed. In such cases, it is advisable, as soon as possible, to take four grains of tartar emetic, dissolved in one half-pint of warm water, and immediately afterwards the white of six eggs. The coagulated mass will not remain in the stomach more than two or three minutes, and the probability is that the bone will be ejected with the contents of the stomach. If tartar emetic is not to be found conveniently, a teaspoonful of mustard dissolved in milk-warm water and swallowed will answer the same purpose. — *Scientific American.*

Cure for Quinsy. — Simmer hops in vinegar a few minutes, until their strength is extracted; strain the liquid, sweeten it with sugar, and give it frequently to the child or patient, in small quantities, until relieved. This is said to be an excellent medicine. — *Davenport Gazette.*

English Ladies. — The healthy appearance of English ladies is noticed by all American travellers. And for this they are in a great measure indebted to their passion for gardening. All English ladies work in their flower gardens, from the proudest princess to the poorest cottager.

Insanity from Novel-Reading. — A physician in this state says, "I have seen a young lady, with her table loaded with volumes of fictitious trash, poring, day after day, and night after night, over highly wrought scenes and skilfully portrayed pictures of romance, until her cheeks grew pale, her eyes became wild and restless, and her mind wandered and was lost — the light of intelligence passed behind a cloud, her soul was for ever benighted. She was insane, incurably insane, from reading novels."

Mechanics' Department, Arts, &c.

Extract of a Prize Essay, by Edmond Maher, published in the Scientific American.

Inventive Genius of the Age. — The nineteenth century stands out in *basso relievo* upon the rock of Time, as the epoch of discovery and fruition — as the inceptive period of mighty truths, such as the world knew not before, and which, in their culminating progress, are destined to embrace the universal family of humanity in the circle of their immense results. The key with which our immortal Franklin unlocked the mysteries of the storm, was also the talisman which may in after times reveal the secret machinery of life itself. Already have the "sightless couriers of the air" woven their web of lightning over the face of creation, realizing, ay, and surpassing the ambition of him who would have "put a girdle round the earth in forty minutes." Already have the mountains bowed, and the "little hills skipped like lambs" before the track of the iron horse, whose limbs are tireless, and whose breath fails not in the race.

The popular mind of our country is essentially inventive. Almost as soon as the American child can think, he inquires, demands illustrations, and suggests changes. The Anglo-Saxon superiority of intellect requires independent and individual development — which, under a republican form of government, is almost certainly obtained; for each man born into the community feels, that in himself lies his destiny, and that equally with another he may aspire to all the rewards of enterprise. The North American mind seldom dreams — seldom indulges in vague or chimerical speculations; it must have a tangible foothold, a solid standing point, and thence it will uphold the loftiest structures that intellect can conceive or action execute. It never stagnates, and seldom is at rest; for in viewing a mountain torrent, the American plans a waterpower that shall perform the work of a thousand men, and in examining a pebble he may divine the locality of untold treasures hid in the bowels of the earth.

It is this national trait of observation and application, that gives our countrymen a peculiar proclivity, if I may use the term, towards invention and improvement. Nothing is passed by them without inquiry and examination; and errors are detected, mistakes rectified, and crude hints reduced to practice with a facility that is truly wonderful. Throughout all classes this trait is noticeable, its development, perhaps but partial and incomplete, yet still marked and recognizable, as a feature of our national physiognomy.

It is this which sweeps away every vestige of the ruined past, and replaces it with solid monuments of the present. It is this which diverts our rivers hundreds of miles from their natural courses, to top the resources of inland commerce. It is this which crosses and recrosses our fertile plains with a woof of perpetual traffic, over which fly continually those mighty shuttles, the steam engines, weaving yet closer and denser, the fabric of our prosperity. It is this which builds ships in the backwoods, launches them upon canals and inland lakes, or transports them piecemeal to the mighty ocean, to assume their place among the navies of the world. It is this which paints our glowing scenery on miles of canvas, revealing our natural and national life to millions beyond the Atlantic, who thus behold, as it were, face to face, a people who exist four thousand miles away. Our flails thresh the corn which grows around the tomb of Pharaoh; our saws sever the cedars of Lebanon; our steam whistle startles the echoes of the Black Forest and the Baltic; our cotton forms the Moslem's turban; our palmleaf shelters the Sumatra planter. We cool the nabob's sherbet with our ices — and we heat the creole's sugar-boiler with our coals!

No nation in the history of the world has illustrated the spirit of improvement to the extent of ours; and this because every man has been a self-acting motive power in the grand machinery of progression. We exhibit the ideality of materialism in every thing — grounding in the smallest foundation a superstructure of practicable theory. A churn, a lock, a door-knob, a plough — these are not objects *merely*, to a Yankee's mind, but are problems, which he endeavors at once to resolve into an "*improved*" churn, or lock, or door-knob, or plough. And the problem presents itself, and must be solved throughout all the handiwork of man.

With this universal *genius*, then, for invention, the American mind requires but two things to make this influence effective, and constant in its great results; and these are education, and governmental protection in its offspring. Our rambling, luxuriant, eccentric inventive talent, must be controlled and directed by a wise system of scientific instruction, as well as protected by law in its results.

A Bureau of Arts, supervised by practical men, should be as distinct a department of our national government as that of the Treasury or of State. It should ever be the policy of a far-seeing statesman to encourage these manifestations of popular intellect which result in practical fruits, which exhibit new modes and means of producing tangible good, whether it be in the perfection of mechanics, agriculture, or the fine arts; for all these things directly advance a nation, and of course create wealth, prosperity, and social honor for all the integrals of that nation.

The institution of a National Academy under the patronage of government, where mechanics, manufactures, and agriculture, should have their appropriate professorships; where the children of the people might be instructed in all the great truths which form the educated workingman; where the cumbrous details of patenteeism should be reduced to a simple codification; where premiums and honorable prizes should be awarded to successful inventors, discoverers, or improvers; where lectures upon all the branches of art should be given by the great scientific men of our country; where a gallery of models and catalogues of all the inventions and discoveries of ancient and modern times should be accessible to all; such an institute as this would do more to elevate our national character, and ennoble our countrymen, than all the victories of a thousand wars, or the acquisition of all the mines of the universe.

With such a fostering institution, the American mechanic could lead the world, in all that adorns and benefits mankind. He could hold up to the gaze of nations a model and a standard of scientific development, that would fire all men with emulation. Then could he grasp and guide the awful elements of nature, curb the ocean and the sky, and overcome the forces of evil throughout creation. Then could he banish miasma from the face of the earth, disarm pestilence, avert famine, regulate climates, and make deserts "blossom as the rose." This power exerted for the good of mankind, and encouraged to its utmost capacity, would be equal to all labors, and superior to all obstacles. Then indeed could we address to him the apostrophe of the Poet —

"Lift then thy hand to heaven!
Spread the Toil-spectre o'er the sea and land!
Thou hast the world entrusted to thy hand —
Earth to thy charge is given."

Experience and Wisdom are the best fortune tellers.

POTATO ROT.

At the agricultural meeting, Jan. 29, Mr. Calhoun read the following communication: —

Hon. Wm. B. Calhoun. Sir: As president of the agricultural meetings, I do not hesitate in taking the liberty of placing in your hands the enclosed paper. It has been for some weeks my wish to have the subject under the attention of the agriculturists of our state, and I know of no association, or body of them, to which it could be communicated with so much propriety as the one over which you preside.

With high respect,

(Signed) A. A. HAYES.

On a Method for protecting Potatoes, after they have been harvested, from the further Spreading of the Potato Disease.

We are indebted to J. E. Teschmacher, Esq., for the first demonstration of the causes of the present destructive disease in the potato, being a fungus growth. The subsequent inquiries, up to the latest observations, have only slightly modified the conclusions arrived at in this country, by substituting for the changes produced by a vegetating fungus, those induced by the decay of that growth.

The rapid decay which continues after the roots have been removed from the soil, is often of the most remarkable character, and aside from its economical bearing, is a subject of scientific importance. During the last season, I made trial of some chemical agents, which specifically arrest all vegetation, hoping to discover an application which would enable us to preserve the diseased potatoes from further changes. Early in the course of the experiments, it was noticed, that a reduction of temperature, by exposure to cold air, greatly diminished the rapidity of decay, while a slight increase of temperature hastened it — moisture being present or not.

Heat in a moist atmosphere increased the destruction; and samples which had been cooled, and thereby partly protected, readily passed through all the changes when again exposed to warm and humid air. After using several substances by direct contact with diseased parts of potatoes, I soon found that the mixture of sulphurous acid, nitrogen, and common air, such as exists when sulphur is burnt in closed vessels, would prevent the further progress of the disease in tubers already affected; and when exposed in contact with tubers passing through all stages of the disease, no further change in the prepared ones was induced.

The trials were varied, and the uniformity of the results has led me to conclude that the fumes of burning sulphur, flowing in contact with potatoes partly diseased, will arrest the further progress of the disease, and prevent decay. It is proper that this conclusion should be received as an expression of fact, under the circumstances of experiments on a small scale, and with no more than two varieties of potatoes; but I confidently expect that the importance of the application will be seen in the largest exhibition of its effects.

The practical use of the sulphurous acid gas is very simple, and not expensive. Crude sulphur inflamed in a shallow cast-iron vessel, or an earthen pot, furnishes the fumes, which may be led, by wooden pipes, to the lower part of bins filled with the roots, until the unoccupied space is filled with them. As the fumes cool, they become heavier than air, and will then enter every interstice. By placing the pot of burning sulphur in an empty barrel, and inverting over it a barrel filled with potatoes, having a light rack in place of a head, the fumes will slowly rise within and impregnate the mass; the barrel and contents being then removed, and the head replaced, the exposure may be considered as ample. Where the quantity is large, it would be more economical to leave a space vacant, below the loose floor on which they repose, and introduce these fumes until every part of the heap of potatoes has received a share.

It should be remembered, that this application will injure, if not destroy, the vegetating power of the tubers, and that although this result may be highly desirable, for all that are preserved for food, those intended for seed should not be so treated.

Respectfully,

(Signed) A. A. HAYES, M. D.,
State Assayer.

No. 1 Pine St., Boston, *Jan.* 18, 1850.

INVERTING FENCE POSTS.

Articles have been published occasionally, showing the advantage of inverting fence posts, in order to prevent their decaying so readily as they do in their natural position. Many plain and strong facts have been brought forward in favor of this improvement, and yet most farmers go on in the old way, unmindful of these facts, and still complaining of the scarcity of timber, the great expense and transient nature of fences. Verily, we need line upon line. With this view of the subject, we copy the following article from the Germantown Telegraph, a paper, by the way, that has a most excellent agricultural department, and from which we frequently copy very instructive articles: —

Mr. Freas: I have frequently seen it asserted in the agricultural journals and other papers, that fence posts, by being inverted, last much longer, and are more durable in every description of soil, than when set in the ordinary way. The experiments and *facts* adduced in support of this position, have accumulated so fast of late, that it appears to me the most sceptical must waver under so vast a weight of unimpeachable testimony. In my own experience, nothing calculated either to confirm or confute this theory has yet occurred; but I have the written testimony of several enlightened friends to corroborate its correctness. A neighbor of mine, who, some years since, resided in one of the New England States, informed me recently that he had occasion, while there, to build a line of fence, on a cross road, dividing his estate, and that, having heard of the superior durability of posts when inserted in this way, he undertook to test the theory, and for this purpose set every other post (they were of white oak) with top down. This he thinks was in 1830 or 1831. In visiting his old homestead last autumn, he had the curiosity to inspect this fence, and to his surprise found that those posts which had been set in an inverted order, were, to all appearance, sound and good, while those which had been set with the butts down were, in almost every instance, decayed. In some few instances it had been necessary to replace the latter, and those which had not been replaced were so rotten that a slight concussion would have been sufficient to break them at the surface. Another friend, twenty-one years since, in the same state, set two chestnut posts for the purpose of hanging a gate. Three years since, one of these posts, which had been placed in the soil with the butt end down, was examined, and found to be too much decayed to subserve any longer the end for which it was designed; while the other, set with the top end in the soil, scarcely exhibited any appearance of rot. On the same farm he also built a line of stake and board fence, one half of which he built with the stakes inverted. This half of the line remained perfectly erect and the stakes sound for a

period of four years; the other part, where the stakes were inserted in the ordinary way, required resharpening the second spring. Such testimony, coming as it does from valuable sources, ought at least to have some weight in our minds; and even though it should fail to produce actual conviction, it ought to induce us to make experiments, by which, ultimately, we could not fail of arriving at the truth. By charring slightly the surface of wood intended to be inhumed in the soil, either for fencing or other purposes, its durability is greatly increased. Posts, so prepared, last a long time; so also do stakes.

A MONTGOMERY COUNTY FARMER.

Dec. 1, 1849.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

[Concluded from p. 42.]

Jan. 29, at the agricultural meeting, Hon. Mr. Daggett in the chair, the discussion of this subject was continued.

Hon. M. P. Wilder commenced the discussion with an ably written and elaborate discourse. He spoke of the importance of agricultural education, he alluded to various agricultural schools in Europe, and he thought that some of them might serve as models by modifying them so that they would be *American*, adapted to our climate and wants. He suggested, that if a school with a model farm was established at an expense of $100,000, or $150,000, it would then support itself with various professorships and good practical cultivators. He said that periodicals had done much, and were destined to do more, by awakening inquiry and communicating information, and the same effect is also produced by agricultural exhibitions; and much may be done by agricultural books and libraries. Arrangements may be made in our Normal schools to fit teachers to give instruction in this important branch in our common schools.

Mr. Buckminister, of the Ploughman, said that we must not begin on too large a scale. If the farm is too extensive, it will grow up to weeds, the fences will be neglected, and the cattle will all run together. In establishing an agricultural institution, it should not be built so high that only a few can stand on it. It must be within the reach of those in common circumstances. We need more information in botany and other sciences. An agricultural institution should be on the plan of a manual labor school. Those who attend our colleges learn but little that fits them for the practical purposes of life, and for want of exercise their health is destroyed.

John W. Proctor, Esq., president of the Essex Agricultural Society, sent the following communication on this subject, which was read before the meeting: —

I hoped to be present at the discussion of the question, How can the state best subserve the interests of the farmer? Discussions of this kind cannot fail to be productive of benefit. The people need only to be informed of what is proper to be done, and the means will readily be at command, to insure its being accomplished. What praiseworthy object was ever commenced by Massachusetts, that she failed to complete?

When the executives of New York and Massachusetts, as well as the executive of the nation, all join with one accord to advance the education of the farmer, who can doubt there will be a cordial response from the people? Will the farmers hesitate in providing for themselves, when all others are anxious it should be done? The proposition admits of but one reply.

I hoped to see some definite plan of action submitted for consideration. I am aware it is much easier to speak in general terms, than to propose any thing definite, that shall be free from exception. But until this is done, very little progress will be made.

I know it is sometimes said, that the state has been munificent in her appropriations to *other professions* and *other employments*, but has done nothing, or comparatively nothing, for the farmer. I do not so understand the facts. I think Massachusetts has done much for the promotion of agricultural science, in the liberal encouragement she has given to agricultural societies; and through the medium of these, much for the instruction of the farmer. I think that kind of knowledge which is elicited by our own efforts, and matured by our own experience, is always the most valuable and abiding. Has not the state, within the last thirty years, appropriated at least, $200,000 for this purpose? Is it right to disregard what has been done? Should we not be grateful for favors received, and thereby show ourselves worthy of others to be bestowed?

How can we do better than to follow the lead of the intelligent state of New York, in investigating this matter? The first movement there was the appointment of an intelligent commission, selected from different sections of the state, to frame a plan of action, and report to the legislature. Such a plan has already been reported, and is now before them for consideration. With such modifications as our climate and condition may demand, may it not be worthy of our consideration also? I do not mean to say that Massachusetts should adopt the same, or a similar one to that of New York; but I do say, that the course there taken seems to be wise and judicious, and the most eligible way of devising a successful mode of operation.

First and *foremost*, in any movement of the kind, it is necessary to satisfy the people of its *feasibility* and *utility*. An agricultural enterprise should be strictly *practical*, not *speculative*. If overloaded with fanciful theories, it will not be sustained. It must be within the *comprehension*, to command the *approbation*, of the farmers.

For instance, if an attempt should be made to carry on an experimental farm, by the application of some chemical compounds, or new-modelled manure, exclusive entirely of the ordinary materials and modes of manuring, — such an attempt would fail to find favor with most of our farmers. A school thus managed would not be approved. Preëxisting notions and prejudices must to some extent be regarded. The practical farmer has many valuable rules of action in his operations; though not always ready to give an intelligible explanation of these rules. By force of habit he uses them, and acquires confidence in their use. It is therefore of the first importance to secure his favorable opinion, that he may be induced to permit his son to submit to the proposed system of education. The sons of good farmers will be found the best materials from which good farmers can be made. City notions and genteel accomplishments are of little value on the farm. They had better not be learned.

How can the state most satisfactorily make appropriations for the benefit of the farmer? *Three modes* have occurred to my mind.

1. By the establishment of a Central School, with an extensive experimental farm attached; on which, one half of the term of attendance of pupils, at least, shall be applied to labor.

The first cost of the land, buildings and fixtures, on such a farm, should be met by the state. The compensation and support of the teachers should be met in the same manner. May we not suppose, that an establishment thus provided, skilfully and economically conducted, will sustain itself? That kind of farming which will not stand alone, when thus supported, will scarcely be worthy of being learned.

The greatest objection to this plan is the limitation of its use, and its inadequacy to the purpose. With three hundred towns in the commonwealth, it would be hardly possible to qualify more than one farmer for each town in a year, after the system is fairly in operation. As many as this would be wanted to teach others, to say nothing of practical operations needed.

2. The establishment of such schools in every agricultural county of the state — possibly the ingrafting of them on one or more of the existing institutions. In the county of Essex, in more than one instance, has this already been attempted. We remember, a few years since, an attempt was made to connect an agricultural department with Phillips Academy at Andover. A professor of high reputation and thorough science was appointed. The Seminary is surrounded with good culturists, and is munificently endowed. But no beneficial influence on farming has yet been made apparent. Dummer Academy, at Newbury, possesses an extensive farm of three hundred acres, specially devoted to this purpose, and has been in operation for sixty years, or more; but we have yet to learn that her sons have manifested any superiority of agricultural acquirements. The fact is, there is something in the atmosphere of a literary institution, that casts *a mildew* upon every thing agricultural about it. Where literary and scientific attainments are the first object in view, the practical arts will rarely flourish. The literary scholar is always inclined to look down upon the laboring scholar; and while this is so, the laborer should never be doomed to be exposed to such humiliating influences.

3. The introduction of the elements of agricultural and horticultural science into our public schools. This has, for a long time, been deemed a desideratum in the requirements at these schools. Every session of our legislature, propositions are made for the introduction into our public schools of some new study, valuable without doubt, in some points of view; but who has ever presumed to offer a resolution that the elements of agricultural science shall be attended to in these schools? What committee, when examining their teachers, has ever inquired of them as to the constituents of soils, and the improvements that will result from their proper combination? Are these inquiries unbecoming their attention? If they are, then is the science of agriculture unworthy to be learned.

The difficulty mainly lies in the combination of *thought* with *action*, *theory* with *practice*. Both are valuable in themselves; but when properly compounded, the virtues of the mixture are wonderfully increased. This is the chemical treasure to which his Excellency so happily alludes. This is the Yankee gold that surpasses that of California; saving all impediments in its acquisition.

Mr. Teschmacher, of Boston, who is distinguished for his knowledge in botany and chemistry, and the application of these sciences to practical purposes, made some remarks on the wonderful effects of science in the improvement of agriculture. He alluded to the discovery of Dr. Hayes, (see p. 68,) not being aware that Mr. Calhoun had a communication from that gentleman. From this discovery he showed that Science was shedding her light upon agriculture, and those who were well educated and skilled in the sciences, would apply their intelligence advantageously to the cultivation of the soil, and management of rural affairs.

Mr. Calhoun remarked that the extensive plan contemplated by some gentlemen for an agricultural school seemed adapted to those who had long pockets well filled, rather than for those who had empty pockets. He would have a school on a moderate scale, for the accommodation of those who have heads and hearts susceptible of improvement if means of education are within their reach. The fact is well established that the sciences conduce to agricultural improvement, and that an education for the purposes of farming is essential to success. Let this be urged upon the consideration of the legislature, and a reasonable sum will doubltess be granted, and some plan devised to accomplish the desirable object of establishing means of education.

Captain Otis Bingham, of Westborough, thought that if a school was established, it should be on a moderate scale, so as to allow all classes to share in its advantages. He thought the design seemed to be, to have a school on a plan to make "gentlemen farmers." He then made some remarks on some gentlemen who at cattle shows, and on other occasions, spoke highly of farmers, and extolled them as a fine class, but, on meeting these same farmers in a plain garb, they would hardly notice them; and while recommending farming as the best and most profitable business, they were educating their sons for other professions. He hoped, if an agricultural institution was established, it would be placed under good practical men, and not under the supervision of those who could not manage their own farms to advantage. It should be within the means of those in common circumstances.

ORIGIN OF VARIOUS PLANTS.

FROM THE GERMAN.

Wheat was brought from the central table land of Thibet, where its representative yet exists as a grass, with small mealy seeds.

Rye exists wild in Siberia.

Oats wild in North Africa.

Barley exists in the mountains of Himalaya.

Millet, one species is a native of India, another of Egypt and Abyssinia.

Maize was brought from America.

Canary seed from the Canary Islands.

Rice from South Africa, whence it was taken to India, and thence to Europe and America.

Peas are of an unknown origin.

Lentil grows wild on the shore of the Mediterranean.

Vetches are natives of Germany.

Chick Pea was brought from the South of Europe.

The Garden Bean from the East Indies.

The Horse Bean from the Caspian Sea.

Buckwheat came originally from Siberia and Tartary.

Rape seed and Cabbage grow wild in Sicily and Naples.

The Poppy was brought from the East.

The Sunflower from Peru.

The Lupine from the Levant.

Flax, or Linseed, is in Southern Europe a weed in the ordinary grain crops.

Hemp is a native of Persia and the East Indies.

The Garden Cress out of Egypt and the east.

The Zealand Flax and Syrian Swallow show their origin by their names.

The Nettle, which sometimes furnishes fibres of spinning, is a native of Europe.

Woad is a native of Europe.

Madder came from the east.

Dyer's Weed grows in southern Germany.

Safflower came from Egypt.

Dill is an eastern plant.

Hops came to perfection as a wild plant in Germany.

Mustard and Carraway seed the same.

Anise was brought from Egypt and the Grecian Archipelago.

Coriander grows wild near the Mediterranean.

Saffron came from the Levant.

The Onion out of Egypt.

Horse Radish from the south of Europe.

Chickory grows wild in Germany.

Tobacco is a native of Virginia, and Tobago, another species, has also been found wild in Asia.

Fuller's Teasel grows wild in southern Europe.

Lucerne is a native of Sicily.

Spurry is a European plant.

The Gourd is probably an eastern plant.

The Potato is a well known native of Peru and Mexico.

The Jerusalem Artichoke is a Brazilian product.

Turnips and Mangold Wurzel came from the shores of the Mediterranean.

Kohlrabi and White Turnip are natives of Germany.

The Carrot is by some supposed to have been brought from Asia, but others maintain it to be a native of the same country as the Turnip.

The Parsnip is supposed also to be a native of the same place.

Spinnach is attributed to Arabia.

White Millet to Greece.

The Radish to China and Japan.

The Cucumber to the East Indies.

Parsley grows in Sardinia.

Tarragon in Central Asia.

Celery in Germany.

OF TREES AND SHRUBS.

The Currant and Gooseberry came from southern Europe.

The Pear and Apple are likewise European plants.

The Cherry, Plum, Olive, and Almond, came from Asia Minor.

The Mulberry Tree from Persia.

The Walnut and Peach from the same country.

The Quince from the Island of Crete.

The Citron from Media.

The Chestnut from Italy.

The Pine is a native of America.

Horse Chestnut from Thibet.

The Whortleberry is a native of both Asia and Europe.

The Cranberry of Europe and America.

DRAINING AND SUBSOILING.

ESTEEMED FRIEND: I drained, last April, about four acres of hard clay bottom, an account of which I sent to the Working Farmer. This land was well manured, part of it subsoiled, and all planted in corn. The early part of the season was wet and cold, and there was some difficulty in getting the seed in in time. After it came up, it lingered until the warm weather arrived, and then took a vigorous start, and continued to improve rapidly until the crop came to maturity, which proved to be in quantity far beyond my expectations.

An acre that was drained, surface ploughed, and subsoiled, produced eighty-six and one half double bushels of ears of sound corn. An acre that was drained and worked in the usual way, produced eighty bushels. An acre adjoining the drained part, of about the same quality of land but not so flat, and of course better calculated to raise a crop, produced with the same manure and tillage, forty-one and one half bushels.

The result of this experiment surprised me very much. I was not prepared to find such a difference in the bushel from draining and subsoiling alone, and the draining but half finished. The drains were made thirty-three feet apart, as I intended at some future time to double their number.

It now appears that when the draining is finished, which will be at a cost of about $30 per acre, and the ground completely subsoiled, it will not be an extravagant calculation to expect one hundred bushels of corn per acre, and other crops in proportion, if the land is well manured and cultivated.

The cost of draining can be considerably reduced by using pipes of burnt clay, and an instrument for digging the drains described in the Working Farmer, one of which I have had made, and intend to use next spring. The result of my efforts I may communicate to the public, for fertilizing this heretofore neglected kind of land seems to be so important an operation that all cultivators of it should be made acquainted with these facts.

These four acres one of my neighbors considered as "a cold, dishy kind of land, so flat the water would not run off; and even if it would, the soil was so poor that nothing could grow upon it but swamp grass;" and when he saw the number of hands employed in draining it, he enquired whether I thought the produce would pay the expense.

The outlay of money commenced in April, and now, in December the capital is all returned, with seven per cent. interest, and the land in a highly improved condition.

This one experiment is, of course, insufficient to establish a rate of profits for draining and subsoiling, but it certainly offers strong inducements to persevere in this mode of treating all such comparatively worthless parts of our land.

There are some reasons for believing that the result of this experiment is not greater than may be expected from other land similarly situated.

This cold, wet kind of soil, upon which none of the small grains have ever grown to any extent, has in it a large stock of food for plants, ready to be taken up whenever the soil is divided so as to admit their roots to run easily through it, and nothing can so completely do this as a thorough draining and subsoiling.

The rains, passing through the subsoil into the drains, perhaps, leave all the ammonia they contain in the land, and thus a fertilizer is introduced to the roots of the plants. Again, by draining and ploughing, the roots of plants have doubled the chance to extend their fibres and increase their strength.

These facts strengthen the opinion that draining and subsoiling have been the principle agents in producing those extraordinary crops, and that similar results may be expected from land of a like quality, treated in a like manner. B. WEBB.

WILMINGTON, 10*th* 12 *Mo.*, 1849.

— *The Working Farmer.*

A preacher, who advised a drowsy hearer to take a pinch of snuff occasionally at service, to keep him awake, was advised in return, to put the snuff in his sermon.

NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS.

Pittsburg (Pa.) Saturday Visitor. — This is a literary and miscellaneous family newspaper, conducted by Mrs. Jane G. Swisshelm, and her brother-in-law, Wm. Swisshelm, a young gentleman of talent, who has lately assumed this station. The presiding genius of this journal is Mrs. S., who is not only one of the most gifted women of the age, but among the ablest editors in the country. Her versatility of powers is remarkable. She wields her pen with a master hand on every subject that comes under her cognizance, whether it be the most minute operation or trifling concern in domestic affairs, the training of children, the rights of women, the grave topics of theology and metaphysics, or the momentous subjects on which hang a nation's destiny. Without fear or favor, she enters upon the investigation of her subject with all her might, clearing away the rubbish of folly, error, and prejudice, though it be the accumulation of ages; fashion's whims and "controlling will" she disobeys, and even the sanction of great names is dashed away with a single stroke of the pen; while with a keen eye and nice discrimination, she aims to present the naked truth, and supports her position with the most powerful logic and convincing argument. Her independence in frankly expressing her views, though in opposition to time-honored opinions, the popular will, the greatest dignitaries, or even all the world beside, is a leading characteristic; and originality is also a distinguishing trait of her mind. Her independence is worthy the attention of many editors, whose means of usefulness, in their prominent stations, are greatly circumscribed by their servility. She goes for reforms and human progress; and those who cannot agree with her in every movement, must admire the cogent reasoning of an original and master genius. Her style is natural, easy, spirited, and strong, occasionally spiced with wit and humor. We shall give, under our Domestic Department, articles from Mrs. S., on domestic economy, training of children, the education and accomplishments of daughters, &c.; and we take this mode to introduce this distinguished lady, and champion of her sex, to the particular notice of our readers. The Visitor is published weekly at $1,50 a year.

Transactions of the Essex Agricultural Society. — We received this work several weeks since, by the politeness of Mr. Proctor, the president of the society, and we have published from it a very instructive article on the management of the dairy. Besides the usual reports and the annual address, these transactions annually contain elaborate essays and reports on various subjects, which render it one of the most valuable works on agriculture.

Abstracts of Returns of the Keepers of Jails, and Overseers of the Houses of Correction, for 1849.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We have received from Messrs. Gwyneth & Tolman, Portland, Me., specimens of apples raised by Mr. Ballard, Westbrook, said to be from a tree that was never budded or grafted. We think there must be a mistake as to the condition of the tree, for this is a Baldwin apple, having that modification that brings it under the synonymn of this fruit called Late Baldwin, which is quite common in Maine. This modification of the Baldwin is of a yellow and red color in the cavity and around it, like the Esopus Spitzenberg. The stem also resembles the Spitzenberg. The common Baldwin is usually russety in the cavity.

A month or two ago, we received specimens of apples of Mr. J. Davenport, Brookline, called in that town the Washington Pearmain. It is identical with the Old Nonsuch, a fine fruit when in perfection, but it is very liable to be imperfect, and not worthy of cultivation in this region, excepting with the amateur who would have many varieties. It succeeds better in new regions. It is rather popular in some sections of New York, where it is cultivated under the name of Red Canada, and where some fruit-growers think it is as good as the Northern Spy; but we think that, from the peculiar freshness of the Spy, it is far superior to the Nonsuch in quality.

THE PILGRIM FATHERS.

BY REV. JOHN PIERPONT.

The Pilgrim Fathers, where are they?
  The waves that brought them o'er
Still roll in the bay, and throw their spray
  As they break along the shore;
Still roll in the bay, as they rolled that day,
  When the Mayflower moored below,
When the sea around was black with storms,
  And white the shore with snow.

* * * * * *

The Pilgrim *spirit* has not fled;
  It walks in noon's broad light;
And it watches the bed of the glorious dead,
  With their holy stars, by night;
It watches the bed of the brave who have bled,
  And shall guard this ice-bound shore,
Till the waves of the bay, where the Mayflower lay,
  Shall foam and freeze no more.

On Sterne's entering a coffee room at York, a Mr. A., staring him full in the face, said, "I hate a parson." Upon which Sterne rejoined, "And so, sir, does my dog, for, as soon as I put on my gown and cassock, he falls a barking."

TERMS. — The New England Farmer is published every other Saturday, making a neat and handsome volume, at the close of the year, of 416 pages, at $1 a year, or five copies for $4, payable in advance. It may be elegantly bound in muslin, embossed and gilt, at 25 cents a volume, if left at this office. As it is stereotyped, back numbers can be furnished to new subscribers.

The Postage

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